



Mosaico

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 1, 2009

The American Citizen Newsletter

Welcome to the quarterly newsletter dedicated to U.S. citizens living in Brazil. Find news, updates from your local U.S. embassy or consulate, and more ...

U.S. Consulate in Rio Moves to Online Appointment System for U.S. Citizen Services

Americans in need of services from the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro are now able to schedule appointments using the Consulate's new online appointment system.

Previously, appointments – which are required for all non-emergency services – were scheduled by phone and email. However, the recently launched online appointment system will assist U.S. citizens by allowing them to schedule appointments directly via the Consulate's website: www.embaixadaamericana.org.br.

Americans need only to click on "U.S. Citizen Services" and select "Contact Information & Working Hours" for Rio's consular district, which includes the states of Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Espirito

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE
TRAVEL.STATE.GOV BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS
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Rio De Janeiro (RDJ)
Avenida Presidente Wilson, 147 Castelo
Rio de Janeiro, RJ - 20030-020

ACS Appointment System - Instructions

U.S. CITIZENS SERVICES
Appointment System

1. To make an appointment, please click here.
[Make Appointment!](#)

2. To cancel an appointment, please click here.
[Cancel Appointment!](#)

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Santo, Bahia, and Sergipe.

By scheduling online, the Consulate expects to provide more efficient service to the public and

provide citizens with greater flexibility in scheduling appointment time.

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Status of Hague Convention Adoptions in Brazil

April 1 marked the one-year anniversary of entry into force for the United States of the multilateral Hague Convention treaty on protection of children and cooperation on intercountry adoption, with the U.S. issuing approximately 70 Hague visas during the first ten months the treaty was in force.

At present, more than half of U.S. intercountry adoptions are currently in Hague partner countries and U.S. adoptions make up more than 50 percent of all intercountry adoptions worldwide.

Despite the fact that Brazil is a signatory to the Hague Convention, Americans wishing to adopt Brazilian children are currently unable to do so due to the absence of a Hague-accredited U.S. adoption-service provider in Brazil.



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Would you like to be a warden volunteer for the U.S. Embassy or Consulate?

Wardens are usually private U.S. citizens resident abroad who volunteer to assist the U.S. Embassy or Consulate by disseminating official U.S. government information regarding safety or travel to other U.S. citizens in their area.

Every U.S. Embassy and Consulate has a warden system that they use to send important messages to Americans in their districts. Anyone who registers with us will receive these messages.

Registration information is protected under the Privacy Act and can be used by wardens and the Embassy or Consulate only in their official capacity.

Please contact the American Citizen Services (ACS) section of the Embassy or Consulate covering your state of residence if you would like to become a warden. The emails for all of the ACS sections at the Embassy and Consulates are listed on page 8.

If you are already registered as a warden, please confirm that you want to continue to be one and be sure to update your information online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

We are particularly interested in making sure we have wardens at popular tourist spots and cities where Americans work and study.

Consul General's Corner

With the recent outbreak of H1N1 Influenza (otherwise known as "swine flu") and the tragedy of the Air France plane crash, we would like to take this opportunity to explain the Department of State's role in a crisis situation abroad and remind American citizens living in or traveling to Brazil of the importance of registering with the Embassy or one of the Consulates.

The safety and security of locally-resident Americans overseas are among the highest priorities of the Department of State and our missions abroad. In the past year, the Department has intervened to assist in the evacuation of Americans from half a dozen countries throughout the world as a result of serious political or economic unrest, natural disasters, or terrorist attacks. When a crisis occurs, the State Department sets up a 24-hour a day task force to monitor developments and respond to the thousands of concerned relatives and friends who begin to telephone the Department for news about their loved ones. Families of U.S. relatives involved in a crisis can contact the Department in Washington, DC through our Office of American Citizen Services and Crisis Management at (202) 647-5225. For information on preparing to deal with a crisis abroad, we encourage you to review the information on the Department's website: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_4254.html.

The Department of State encourages all American citizens traveling or residing abroad to register their presence with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. This can be done online at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. (Registration depends on your state of residence/visit in Brazil. Please refer to

the box below to see with which Embassy or Consulate you should register.) Please keep this information current, especially your email address, mailing address, and phone number. Registration will make your presence and whereabouts known in case it is necessary to contact you in an emergency and enable you to receive up-to-date information on security conditions and other important news items.

The safety and security of locally-resident Americans overseas are among the highest priorities of the Department of State and our missions abroad.

When you create an account, you can return to the registration website at any time to update your contact information. In accordance with the Privacy Act, information on your welfare and whereabouts may not be released to inquirers without your expressed written authorization. Registration through the website is not considered proof of citizenship. You may want to keep numbers or copies of your passport or other citizenship documents with a friend or relative in case of emergency.

If you are abroad during a crisis, you should monitor the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs home page (<http://travel.state.gov>) and the home page for the U.S. Embassy (<http://www.embaixadaamericana.org.br>) for up-to-date information about the crisis. If a crisis occurs in a country you are visiting, please contact your family and friends in the United States immediately to reassure them of your whereabouts and safety. You may also monitor Voice of America and BBC broadcasts for announcements.

As always, we welcome your suggestions on useful articles for the future.

Marie Damour
Consul General
U.S. Embassy Brasilia

REGISTER WITH THE EMBASSY OR A CONSULATE

You should register with the Embassy or Consulate that has jurisdiction over the state you reside in or are visiting and update your information every five years or when departing Brazil. Please see the list below of what states are covered by each post to determine with which post you should register. And see page 8 for a list of consular agents in other Brazilian cities.

U.S. Embassy Brasilia covers: Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Distrito Federal, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, and Roraima.

U.S. Consulate Rio de Janeiro covers: Bahia, Espírito Santo, Minas Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, and Sergipe.

U.S. Consulate São Paulo covers: Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraná, São Paulo, Rio Grande do Sul, and Santa Catarina.

U.S. Consulate Recife covers: Alagoas, Ceará, Fernando de Noronha, Maranhão, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Piauí, and Rio Grande do Norte.

WHO Raises Alert Level For H1N1 Virus

The World Health Organization on June 11 raised the alert level for the H1N1 virus – which as of the end of June had been reported in some 600 individuals in Brazil.

The virus, called “swine flu” by some, was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009.

Many other countries, including Mexico and Canada, have reported people sick with this new virus.

In Brazil, the state of São Paulo has seen the highest number of cases, followed by Santa Catarina. As of mid-June, no Americans in Brazil had H1N1.

This virus is spreading from person-to-person, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread.

The WHO’s decision to raise the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6 came in response to the ongoing global spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus.

More than 70 countries are now reporting cases of human infection with novel H1N1 flu. This number has been increasing over the past few weeks, but many of the cases reportedly had links to travel or were localized outbreaks without community spread.

The WHO designation of a pan-

demical alert Phase 6 reflects the fact that there are now ongoing community level outbreaks in multiple parts of world. WHO’s decision to raise the pandemic alert level to Phase 6 is a reflection of the spread of the virus, not the severity of illness caused by the virus.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has determined that this new H1N1 virus is contagious and is spreading from human-to-

further study has shown that this new virus is very different from what normally circulates in North American pigs. It has two genes from flu viruses that normally circulate in pigs in Europe and Asia and avian genes and human genes. Scientists call this a “quadruple reassortant” virus.

Signs and Symptoms

The symptoms of this new H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

Also, like seasonal flu, severe illnesses and death have occurred as a result of this virus.

Severity of the Virus

It is not known at this time how severe this new H1N1 flu virus will be in the general population.

In seasonal flu, there are certain people that are at higher risk of serious flu-related complications. This includes people 65 years and older, children younger than 5 years old, pregnant women, and people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions.

Early indications are that pregnancy and other previously recognized medical conditions that increase the risk of influenza-related complications, like asthma and diabetes, also appear to be associated with increased risk of complications from this novel H1N1 virus.

One thing that appears to be different from seasonal influenza is that adults older than 64 do not yet appear to be at increased risk of novel H1N1-related complications thus far in the outbreak. CDC is conducting laboratory studies to see if certain people might have natural

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human. However, at this time, it is not known how easily the virus spreads between people.

Why Some Call It ‘Swine Flu’

This virus was originally referred to as “swine flu” because laboratory testing showed that many of the genes in this new virus were very similar to influenza viruses that normally occur in pigs in North America.

But

Further Information

For further information about H1N1 Influenza, including steps you can take to stay healthy, please consult:

- The Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_pandemic.html
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>
- The U.S. Government pandemic influenza website: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>
- The World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>
- Brazilian Ministry of Health: Hotline 0800 61 1997, <http://www.saude.gov.br>

INFLUENZA
INFLUENZA
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A
(H1N1)

WHO Raises Alert Level For H1N1 Virus



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immunity to this virus, depending on their age.

Early reports indicate that no children and few adults younger than 60 years old have existing antibody to the novel H1N1 flu virus; however, about one-third of adults older than 60 may have antibodies against this virus.

It is unknown how much, if any, protection may be afforded against the novel H1N1 flu by any existing antibody.

CDC is still learning about the severity of the novel H1N1 flu virus. At this time, there is not enough information to predict how severe this novel H1N1 flu outbreak will be in terms of illness and death or how it will compare with seasonal influenza.

How the Virus Spreads

Spread of this H1N1 virus is

thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads.

Flu viruses are spread mainly from person-to-person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

At the current time, CDC believes that this virus has the same properties in terms of spread as seasonal flu viruses. With seasonal flu, studies have shown that people may be contagious from one day before they develop symptoms to up to seven days after they get sick.

Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods. CDC is studying the virus and its capabilities to try to learn more and will provide more information as it becomes available.

H1N1 viruses are not spread by food. You cannot get this new virus from eating pork or pork products. Eating properly handled and cooked pork products is safe.

Protecting Your Health

There is no vaccine available right now to protect against this new H1N1 virus. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

- Stay home if you are sick for seven days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

If you live in areas where people have been identified with new H1N1 flu and become ill with influenza-like symptoms, including fever, body aches, runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea, you should stay home and avoid contact with other people.

Staying at home means that you should not leave your home except to seek medical care. This means avoiding normal activities, including work, school, travel, shopping, social events, and public gatherings.

If you have severe illness or you are at high risk for flu complications, contact your health care provider or seek medical care.

If you become ill and experience any of the warning signs mentioned below, seek emergency medical care.

EMERGENCY SIGNS

With children, emergency treatment should be sought if the child shows certain signs:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing;
- Bluish or gray skin color;
- Not drinking enough fluids;
- Severe or persistent vomiting;
- Not waking up or not interacting;
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held; or
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough.

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath;
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen;
- Sudden dizziness;
- Confusion;
- Severe or persistent vomiting; and
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough.



AMERICA'S DAY 2009
- The American Society of Rio de Janeiro hosted its annual America's Day celebration recently at the American School in Rio. Diplomats from the U.S. Consulate in Rio were among the hundreds of attendees. The entertainment was provided by a Brazilian band that played American country rock.

Status of Hague Convention Adoptions in Brazil

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The U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro is working very closely with the Brazilian government to establish how the Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention will affect future adoptions in Brazil.

At the moment, prospective adoptive parents should expect a lengthy process. If you are not an immediate relative qualified to adopt via the Brazilian national adoption system, it is unlikely you will be permitted to adopt in Brazil for the foreseeable future.

The Brazilian government has not yet passed adoption-related legislation, which may change the criteria by which U.S. adoption service providers are evaluated. Nor has Brazil re-opened the accreditation process for foreign service providers that would allow U.S. agencies to operate in Brazil. The Brazilian government is also currently undertaking a review of all foreign service providers working in Brazil, potentially affecting future evaluation criteria.

These steps are likely to take a year or more to be resolved. Adoptive parents should also be aware that children available for international adoption in Brazil are generally over 5 years of age, sibling pairs, or have special needs.

Despite the procedural barriers in Brazil, implementation of the Convention by the U.S. is spurring other countries' interest and many non-signatory countries are now taking steps to improve their adoption programs.

Specific questions regarding adoptions can be sent to the Office of Children's Issues Adoption Division in the Department of State. Contact information can be found at <http://adoption.state.gov/meet/contact.html>.

Hague Abduction Convention Compliance Report

The 2009 Report on Compliance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction was released in May.

The report describes specific compliance problems the Department of State identified in Convention partner countries and describes the status of longstanding, unresolved return applications.

Previous reports, as well as the current list of Convention partner countries, can be found at www.travel.state.gov/family/abduction/resources/resources_4308.html. The website also has suggestions for preventing intercountry parental abductions.



The decision is the result of a request made by the Federal Police that claimed that there was a possibility of falsification of documents in cases of dispute for child custody.

New Resolution on Travel Authorization for Brazilian Children and Teenagers

The National Council of Justice (CNJ) published on April 28 a new resolution (Resolution no. 74) that regulates the authorization for travel outside of the country for Brazilian children and adolescents. If your child has Brazilian citizenship, this rule will apply to you.

From now on, both parents must be personally present before a notary to sign the travel authorization for a minor to leave Brazil. In addition to the notarized signature, this authorization must contain a photo of the child/adolescent and should be presented in two separate copies: one to be retained by the supervisory agent of the Federal Police at the boarding inspection, and the second copy to remain with the child/adolescent.

Before this resolution, if the child was traveling with only one parent, the other parent needed to have the authorization notarized, but did not necessarily have to appear in person before a notary. The mother or father could simply send a signed authorization.

The decision of the CNJ is the result of a request made by the Federal Police that claimed that there was

a possibility of falsification of documents in cases of dispute for child custody. The resolution is meant to make more difficult kidnappings and abductions by one parent.

The travel authorization should contain an expiration date, to be set by the parents or legal guardians.



You can read more about the resolution at the following websites:

· <http://www.cnj.jus.br/index.php?>

option=com_content&view=article&id=7382:resolucao-nd-74-de-28-de-abril-de-2009&catid=57:resolucoes&Itemid=512

· http://www.cnj.jus.br/images/stories/docs_cnj/resolucao/rescnj_74.pdf

· <http://jbonline.terra.com.br/pextra/2009/05/11/e11054986.asp>

A sample travel authorization can be found on the following page.

How to Renew a Child's U.S. Passport

The following documents are required to renew a passport for a minor under 16 years of age with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate:

- Completed DS-11 (passport application form). Please complete all sections *except* Section 23. You need to sign this in front of the Consular Officer.
- Child's original birth certificate
- One (1) photo 2x2 inches (5x5 cm or 5x7cm)
- Parents/guardians' evidence of identity
- US \$85 (application fee)

Both parents must be appear before the Consular Officer to sign for the minor's passport.

If only one parent is present, the other parent must submit a written statement (in English) of consent authorizing passport issuance for the child.

This statement can be notarized before a Brazilian Notary Public or a U.S. Notary or a U.S. Embassy or Consulate. (The form is called the DS-3043, Statement of Consent, and can be downloaded on our website.)

The parent not present must also submit a notarized copy of an identity document that has their photo and signature.

Please refer to our website (www.embaixadaamericana.org.br) for complete instructions and links to the required documentation.



SAMPLE TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION FORM

AUTORIZAÇÃO PARA VIAGEM DE MENOR (Preencher à máquina ou em letra de forma)											
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> FOTO </div>											
<p style="text-align: center;">Autorizo(amos) a concessão de visto ao (à) menor _____</p> <p> _____, natural de _____, </p> <p> <small>passaporte nr. órgão expedidor data de expedição</small> </p> <p> nascido(a) em ____/____/____, bem como sua viagem para o _____ no período de ____ meses </p> <p> e seu retorno para _____ desacompanhado(a) ou sob a responsabilidade de _____ </p> <p> <small>nome completo da pessoa que acompanha o(a) menor nacionalidade</small> </p> <p> <small>estado civil profissão</small>, residente em _____ </p> <p> <small>endereço completo</small> </p> <p> _____, portador(a) da identidade/passaporte nr. _____ </p> <p> emitido(a) por _____ </p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Nome</td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Nome</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Grau de parentesco</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Grau de parentesco</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Identidade e número</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Identidade e número</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Órgão expedidor</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Órgão expedidor</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Assinatura</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">Assinatura</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"> _____ Local _____ de _____ de _____ </p> <p> VALIDADE DESTA AUTORIZAÇÃO: DE ____/____/____ A ____/____/____ </p>		Nome	Nome	Grau de parentesco	Grau de parentesco	Identidade e número	Identidade e número	Órgão expedidor	Órgão expedidor	Assinatura	Assinatura
Nome	Nome										
Grau de parentesco	Grau de parentesco										
Identidade e número	Identidade e número										
Órgão expedidor	Órgão expedidor										
Assinatura	Assinatura										

Both parents must be personally present before a notary to sign the travel authorization from for a minor to leave Brazil. If your child has Brazilian citizenship, this rule will apply to you.

Upcoming Holidays

The U.S. Embassy in Brasilia and U.S. Consulates in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Recife will be closed on the following holidays:

July 3 (Friday) - Independence Day
 July 9 (Tuesday) - São Paulo State Day (São Paulo only)
 July 16 (Thursday) - Our Lady of Carmo Day (Recife only)
 September 7 (Monday) - Labor Day/Brazilian Independence Day
 October 12 (Monday) - Columbus Day/Our Lady Aparecida Day
 November 2 (Monday) - All Souls Day
 November 11 (Monday) - Veterans Day
 November 20 (Friday) - Zumbi dos Palmares Day (Rio de Janeiro only)
 November 26 (Thursday) - Thanksgiving
 December 8 (Tuesday) - Immaculate Conception Day (Recife only)
 December 25 (Friday) - Christmas



*Have a healthy and
safe Fourth of July!*

U.S. Consulate in Rio Moves to Online Appointment System for U.S. Citizen Services

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Appointment requests via email and phone will no longer be accepted for most services. One exception is that U.S. Social Security benefits inquiries will still be available via email. This service is only available on Thursday afternoons. To schedule an appointment regarding U.S. Social Security benefits, please send an email to acsrio@state.gov.

For all other services, citizens who click on the appointment link on the Consulate's website will be directed to U.S. Consulate Rio's appointment calendar to select a date for one of four services: additional visa

pages, passport services (other than additional visa pages), reporting the birth abroad of a child of a U.S. citizen and/or applying for the child's first passport, or requesting notary and other services.

You can only select one service for your appointment. Signing up for one service will allow you to perform multiple services at that time. However, each person must have their own appointment. You cannot use your appointment to include another family member.

If you need to cancel your appointment, you can do so directly via the same appointment link. In order to accommodate as many appointments as possible, Americans are asked to cancel their appointments at least 48 hours beforehand. Citizens who do not appear for an appointment and fail to advise the Consulate of the cancellation in a timely manner will be asked to wait one week before scheduling again.

Please make sure you follow the instructions on the appointment page carefully for each of the types of services provided at the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro. The instructions explain what documentation is required and the appointment page includes links to the required forms.

All forms must be completed (but not signed) before your appointment. Failure to complete the forms and to present the necessary supporting documents will result in your appointment being rescheduled so that you can have time to properly prepare the required documentation.

Services That Can Be Scheduled Online

- Add visa pages to an undamaged, valid U.S. passport;
- Passport services other than adding pages;
- Report the birth abroad of a child of a U.S. citizen and/or apply for the child's first passport, Report of Birth and Social Security Number *; and
- Request notary and other services not listed above.

**It is important to note that registering a child as an American is a lengthy process. You should be prepared to spend several hours in the Consulate to complete the process.*

For American Citizen Services in Brazil

- **Brasilia**
Pergunte-ao-consul@state.gov
- **Recife**
USRecife@state.gov
- **Rio de Janeiro**
ACSRio@state.gov
- **São Paulo**
ACSInfoSaoPaulo@state.gov

There are also consular agencies in:

- **Belem (91-3259-4566)**
- **Manaus (92-3611-3333)**
- **Salvador da Bahia (71-3113-2090)**
- **Fortaleza (85-3486-1306)**
- **Porto Alegre (51-3226-3344)**